



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Assembly Bill 1595 & Assembly Bill 1266 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles

What are they?

Assembly Bill 1595 (Cook) was approved by Governor Edmund G. Brown on July 24, 2012. This law will add a definition for Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle (ROV) to the California Vehicle Code (CVC). This law will also provide rules regulating the operation of ROV's. AB 1595 is a manufacturer association sponsored bill designed to address concerns for the safe operation of ROV's. The law will become effective on January 1st, 2013.

Assembly Bill 1266 (Nielsen and Cook) was approved by Governor Brown on September 25, 2012. This law will amend two specific laws as introduced by AB 1595.

What do the bills do?

AB 1595 Defines an ROV as meeting the following criteria; CVC Section 500:

- a. Designed by the manufacturer for operation primarily off of the highway.
- b. Has a steering wheel for control.
- c. Has non-straddle seating provided by the manufacturer for the operator and all passengers.
- d. (1) Has a maximum speed capability of greater than 30 miles per hour.
(2) A vehicle designed by the manufacturer with a maximum speed capability of 30 miles per hour or less, but is modified so that it has a maximum speed capability of greater than 30 miles per hour is an ROV.
- e. Has an engine displacement equal to or less than 1,000cc (61 ci).

AB 1595 further provides for Operational and Safety Requirements; Division 16.5, CVC Sections:

- a. 38600: Operator of a ROV shall be at least 16 years of age, or be directly supervised in the vehicle by a parent or guardian or adult authorized by the parent or guardian.
- b. 38601: Safety helmet required for operator and passengers of ROV (reference 27802)
- c. 38602: Seat/shoulder belt or safety harness required to be worn when ROV is in motion.
- d. 38603: Operator of ROV shall not allow passenger to occupy a separate seat location not designed and provided by the manufacturer for a passenger.

CVC Section 38603 was amended by AB 1266. CVC Section 38603 will become effective July 1, 2013.

- e. 38604: Operator of ROV shall not allow a passenger unless the passenger is seated upright with back against seatback and can grasp the occupant handhold with the seatbelt/ safety harness properly fastened.

CVC Section 38604 was amended by AB 1266. The requirement of a passenger to have his/her feet flat on the floorboard was removed.

Comments, suggested improvements to the bill and concerns may be sent to: ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov with a subject line of AB 1595. The Off-highway Motor Vehicle recreation Division will respond to all inquiries.